

HOUSE RESOLUTION 148

By Doss

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Eugenia Curtis for her
lifetime of loyalty to the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pleasure in paying tribute to an exceptional lady who
has never wavered in her devotion to her alma mater, the University of Tennessee (UT); and

WHEREAS, Eugenia Curtis has accrued seventy consecutive years of making financial
gifts to UT, the longest current streak among UT alumni and probably the longest in UT history;
and

WHEREAS, this legacy has kept Mrs. Curtis connected to UT, and she modestly
asserts: "I never thought twice about giving to the university that shaped so much of my life and
made me who I am." In turn, UT is thankful for the seventy consecutive gifts she has made to
the University; and

WHEREAS, a strong supporter of UT-Knoxville athletics, Mrs. Curtis has passed her
love of the University on to her eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; seven of her
grandchildren have been enrolled in the UT system: one at UT-Chattanooga, one at UT- Martin,
and the other five at UT-Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Eugenia Hamlett Curtis left her family's home in Ardmore to attend
the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; as America intensified its efforts to help win World War
II, she was soon displaced from her dormitory to make way for the engineers and Air Force
recruits who were training at the school; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Curtis did her part in the homefront war effort and worked as an aide
for the UT Library, making the generous sum of \$100 per month, which helped pay her room
and board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Curtis earned her Bachelor of Arts in English in 1944, and intended to become a librarian, but instead, she returned home and took a job as a bookkeeper at the Bank of Ardmore; in that same year, she made her first donation to UT; and

WHEREAS, she soon married Robert Wade Curtis, a farmer, whom she had dated in high school, and the Curtises had four children; over the next eighteen years, she worked on and off at the bank and helped out at the family's grocery store, always making a gift to UT each year; and

WHEREAS, her husband passed away in 1967, when she was only forty-three; in 1973, when her youngest child was a senior at Ardmore High School, Mrs. Curtis began working again, this time as a teller at the Ardmore branch of the First National Bank of Pulaski, and continued giving to her alma mater; and

WHEREAS, today, having lived on Main Street in Ardmore for ninety-one years, Mrs. Curtis is unquestionably one of UT's most steadfast, generous, and distinguished graduates, and her blood still runs orange; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Eugenia Curtis for her lifetime of loyalty to the University of Tennessee and her seventy consecutive years of giving back to her alma mater. We thank her for her great beneficence and wish her much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.